



Edited By Miguel Cristales

## Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ GR Restructuring
- ◆ Support Against Homelessness

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# GENERAL RELIEF & CAPI PROGRAMS SECTION

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014!!

### HOUSING SUBSIDY SERVICES FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER PROJECT CLIENTS



By Miguel Cristales, GR Program

Part of the General Relief (GR) Restructuring Implementation, approved by the Board of Supervisors, was designed to reduce the GR caseload by reducing homelessness, enhancing Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Advocacy efforts, and strengthening employment preparation services. The DPSS-Public Defender Supplemental Security Income and Medical Advocacy Program (SSIMAP) Services project was designed to enhance SSI advocacy efforts by integrating physically and/or mentally disabled Public Defender (PD) clients who are on GR into SSI-related assistance.

A proposal has been approved by the Bureau of Workforce Services Chiefs to initiate an operational process to provide Housing Subsidy slots to PD clients. Most PD clients are receiving treatment at the *Project 180* Facility in Los Angeles, and at the *Pomona Prototypes Facility*. An Administrative Directive will be sent to all GR Districts to ensure that staff is aware of the Housing Subsidy/Public Defender operational procedures once PD clients are referred for housing services.



### DPSS and GR Program Demonstrating Support Against Homelessness

By Miguel Cristales, GR Program

Homelessness is a problem that affects us all, and it can be solved. On any given night 58,000 of our L.A. County neighbors find themselves without a home, making our region the homeless capital of America. 40% are women and children. Up to 20% are veterans who



have risked their lives in service to our country. DPSS has shown their extreme support by raising funds to eradicate homelessness. DPSS Director, Sheryl L. Spiller, Chief Deputy Director, Phil Ansell and GR Program staff joined HomeWalk Honorary Chair, L.A. Lakers Kobe Bryant and over 10,000 people on November 23, 2013, in a powerful demonstration of compassion and support to raise awareness and funds to end homelessness in L.A. County.

<http://unitedwayla.org/homewalk/>

## H.ELP IS HERE!



### Help Through the Enterprise Linkages Project (H.ELP)

By Mario Uribe, GR Program

In 2012, the General Relief (GR) Program staff implemented the Enterprise Linkages Project (ELP) to provide enhanced services to GR participants. The project was renamed "Help through the Enterprise Linkages Project" (H.ELP) to emphasize it is a user-friendly system for GR participants.

The goal of H.ELP is to identify GR participants who frequently use services from other County Departments. H.ELP is a database with service history data from seven county Departments. ELP users are able to view a participant's previous service history and determine how to use the service history to provide enhanced services for homeless services, employment and Supplement Security Income (SSI) advocacy.

An important goal of the project is to have all GR participants authorize DPSS to view their service history by signing the H.ELP Authorization form. GR Program staff are instructed to offer H.ELP when the participant is in the District Office or GROW site to all GR participants who have not signed up. H.ELP is voluntary but participants who do not sign up could be missing out on important services and programs that could result in employment, being eligible for SSI or obtaining housing assistance.

GR Program staff are using the data in ELP to submit medical documentation with SSI applications, which have been approved. H.ELP Participants are referred to expungement services, SSI advocacy, employment opportunities and the housing subsidy program. ELP was established as a part of GR Restructuring Plan. You can view additional information at [http://dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/GR/grr\\_default.cfm](http://dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/GR/grr_default.cfm). If you have any questions about H.ELP, contact GR Program at (562) 908-6767.

## QC Corner

**Non-Assistance CalFresh (NACF):** By Brian Nollner, GROW Program

**Reminder-** Non-Assistance CalFresh (NACF) only cases should not be denied or terminated for failure to comply with Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS) requirements. Eligibility staff must ensure the deferral of SFIS for all NACF individuals at the point of Intake and Recertification for cases that show SFIS pending effective January 1, 2012, and ongoing. SFIS must be deferred if the cash segment is terminated or denied for failure/refusal to comply. The PA 59, "Fingerprint and Photo Imaging Referral" should no longer be generated for NACF individuals (Administrative Directive No. 5030, dated 06/11/12).

**Example:** Ms. Smith applied for General Relief (GR) and CalFresh benefits. She has earned income of \$500 per month. The Eligibility Worker (EW) informs Ms. Smith that due to her income, she does not qualify for GR, but she is still eligible for Cal Fresh (CF). The EW, denies the GR, and processes the CF portion without the need to be fingerprinted.

## THE GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM HOPES THAT YOU HAD A SAFE AND WONDERFUL NEW YEARS

### General Relief Program Welcomes New Staff To The Section!!!

**Regina Adkins-Williams** began her career at DPSS as a GAIN Services Worker (GSW) in Region V. Regina then promoted to GAIN Services Supervisor (GSS) at Southwest Special District #08 supervising the Job Skills Training Program. After one year she moved to Wilshire Special as a GSS for GROW. While at Wilshire Special, she promoted to Human Services Administrator (HSA) I. STILL couldn't get enough, she promoted as HSA II at the Contract Management Division (CMD) at DPSS Headquarters. We are now fortunate to have her as ASM II In-Charge of the GR Special Projects and SSI Advocacy Section!!

Your feedback is important and your contributions to the GR & CAPI Programs Section Newsletter are welcomed. Send your comments and recommendations to the GR & CAPI Programs Section. Feel free to provide us with article ideas to Miguel Cristales at [miguelcristales@dpss.lacounty.gov](mailto:miguelcristales@dpss.lacounty.gov). We look forward to hearing from you!!

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